

COUNTRY

Rumania

REPORT NO.

Air Fields and Air Activity near Timisoara

25X1A

EVALUATION

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PLACE OBTAINED

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DATE OF CONTENT

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24 June 1953

REFERENCES

PAGES

2

ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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SOURCE

1. In September 1951, Zsokapusta (R 16/T 91) airfield near Timisoara was not used. Allegedly, the field was never equipped with hangars or barracks. The sodded landing field which had been destroyed at the end of the war was not repaired. Rumanians and Germans referred to the field as Sanandrei airfield.<sup>1</sup> A large meadow on the northern perimeter of the town which had been used by the Germans as an auxiliary airfield was not used by the Rumanians after the war.
2. After the arrival of the Soviets in Timisoara in August 1947, there were rumors that a large airfield was to be constructed for the Soviets. The field was allegedly completed in late 1950. About early 1951, fast aircraft with howling engines, allegedly jet planes, were observed flying in groups of up to 12 planes, in wedge and echelon formations over Timisoara. It was not observed that jet planes flew at night.
3. Timisoara-Giarmata (R 16/U 02) airfield was located northeast of Timisoara. Its southern border extended as far as about 1 km north of Giroda (R 16/U 01) and its western edge was bordered by the railroad line leading from Timisoara to Giarmata. The sodded landing field was not fenced in. Prior to November 1951, there were no runways or taxiways at the field. On the western edge of the field there were some temporary buildings and some large buildings which had been erected by the Rumanians after the war. About October 1951, it was rumored that the field was to be occupied by a Soviet Air Force unit. At the same time, the meadow adjacent east to the landing field was confiscated. The road from Timisoara to the field which was in poor condition was to be improved.
4. Prior to November 1951, a Rumanian flying school was located at Timisoara-Giarmata (R 16/U 02) airfield. There were about 100 student pilots, Rumanians under 20 years old, who wore civilian clothes while on duty. They were instructed by Rumanian officers and mainly practiced flying on gliders and, occasionally, on conventional planes.<sup>3</sup>
5. In 1951, very fast aircraft with howling engines noises were observed for the first time over Timisoara. Similar planes with one jet engine each under the wings were observed in March 1952. At the same time, individual four-engine propeller aircraft with

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25X1

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25X1A

25X1

- 2 -

cigar-shaped fuselage, single-rudder assembly and wings fitted at the front third of the fuselage were observed. At night, air activity was also practiced by aircraft apparently including jet planes. All the planes observed aloft were apparently stationed in the immediate vicinity of Timisoara.<sup>2</sup>

- 25X1A 1. [ ] Comment. According to other reports, the former airfield located 3 km northwest of Timisoara had been released for cultivation.
- 25X1A 2. [ ] Comment. The information that jet planes were observed in the air space of Timisoara agrees with previous reports. It is believed that air activity was conducted by MiG-15s of a Soviet fighter regiment and by Il-28s of a Soviet bomber regiment which were stationed at Timisoara-South airfield.
- 25X1A 3. [ ] Comment. The information on Giarmata airfield agrees with previous reports with regard to location, size and occupation by Rumanian glider pilots. The rumor that the field was taken over by the Soviets and intended to be improved is believed credible. However, it is possible that the rumor refers to a previous report according to which 300 to 400 Soviet personnel are stationed at the field which is used for intermediate landings.

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